loom, the impress both are capable of receiving; while the magnificent arabesques of Italy, disposed in every combination that can delight the eye and interest the understanding, place decorative art far above the position usually assigned to it. Design, in form or colour, is the foundation of all this, and greater excellence; while the latter is fully capable of bestowing a finishing charm on the skilful arrangements of the architect, or through the instrumentality of ignorant or indifferent tradesmen, become the means of destroying the ultimate effect of his best efforts.

New Books.

The Works of Josephus. A New Translation by Dr. Traill. London: Houlston and Stoneman.

A new translation of Josephus was much needed and will be appreciated, we doubt not, by the reading public. What especially recommends this edition to our notice is the circumstance that the twelve parts, in which will appear his Life, the Jewish War, and the two books against Apion, will be illustrated by one hundred engravings from drawings by Mr. Tipping of scenes, buildings, sculpture, &c., illustrative of the history, with descriptive notes. "In no ancient city perhaps—not even in Rome, and not in Athens—are the architectural remains of remote ages so confusedly blended as we find them in Jerusalem; for in very many cases what is unquestionably the work of a later age, Saracenic, Norman, Turkish, takes up and *enbeds* the materials of an earlier time; nor are the instances rare in which large masses of materials, exhibiting traces of the arts, the resources, and the wealth of a primeval prosperity, have, as often as three or four times, and at the interval of centuries, been dislodged—have lain long in chaotic ruins; and then, and by rude hands, or in the hurry of distracted times, have been lifted anew into form, and lodged upon their first foundations." It may be expected that the illustrations to be given in this work will tend to the solution of some of these chronological problems.

Correspondence.

PRESSURE OF WATER IN MAINS—FILTER.

Sir,—Would it not be an assistance to those persons who may wish to adopt the plan of extinguishing fire by means of jets from hose attached to their water mains, if more particulars could be obtained as to the various heights of pressure, and their results in the late experiment made at Liverpool? and also what is the best method of attaching the hose for that purpose?

Can any of your correspondents inform me what is the description of filterer recommended by the Health of Towns Commission, or what is the best mode of making filter beds for large quantities of water?—I am, Sir, &c.,

One interested in the same.

The Theatre at Carlsruhe Burnt.—The grand Ducal Theatre at Carlsruhe has just shared what appears to be the inevitable fate of all theatres. How is this frequent evil to be remedied. If theatres must be full of combustible frippery, might not these be dipped in alum or other proper solution, to render them incombustible? Some hangings in the present instance were caught in the flame of the gas, and of course, rapidly communicated the fire to other equally combustible materials, so that had the hangings and canvasses in this case been saturated in the cheap and simple way so often pointed out, this theatre might have been still entire, and the loss it appears of many lives avoided.

The Protestant Church on Mount Zion.—In our notice of Brunetti's model, we spoke of Mr. Johns as the architect of the new church in Jerusalem. We have since been reminded that Mr. Habershon is the architect now employed there, and that "the roof may be seen slated, with part of the ceiling and ornaments (as it will be when finished), on the premises of Mr. Howard, builder, Newington Causeway. The whole of the fittings will be ready to sail in a month or six weeks."

Miscellanea.

Manufacture of Roman Mosaics.—Mr. D. Wyatt, in his paper "On the Art of Mosaic," recently alluded to, thus describes the manufacture of Roman Mosaics:—A plate, generally of metal, of the size of the picture to be copied, is first surrounded by a margin, about ½ of an inch from its surface. This is then covered over with a coating of perhaps ¼ of an inch in thickness of mastic cement, composed of powdered Travertine stone, lime, and linseed oil. This is, when set, entirely covered with plaster of Paris, rising to a level with the surrounding margin, which is intended to be exactly that of the finished mosaic. On this is traced a very careful outline of the picture to be copied; and, with a fine chisel, just as much is removed, from time to time, as will admit of the insertion of the little pieces of glass mosaic—or, as the Italians call it, "smalto." This smalto is composed of glass, and is made in rounds, about 6 or 8 inches in diameter, and ¼ an inch thick. The workman then proceeds to select from the great depository, wherein are preserved, in trays, nearly 10,000 varieties of colour, those he may require,—which he then works to the necessary shape. This is done by striking the smalto with a sharp-edged hammer, directly over a similar edge, placed vertically beneath. The concussion breaks the smalto to very nearly the shape required; and it is then more perfectly ground, by application to a lead wheel covered with emery powder. The piece thus shaped is then moistened with a little cement, and bedded in its proper situation; and so on, until the picture is finished; when the whole is ground down to an even face, and polished. Six regularly instructed artists are now constantly employed in the Fabrica, at the Vatican.

Alleged Mis-management of Public Works.—The *Sligo Champion* declares that "the Board of Works is humbugged, the Government cheated, the poor defrauded," while the off-shoots of a mean and broken down gentry are enjoying the fat of the spoil,—the lion's share. These startling and wholesale allegations, however, are somewhat inconsistent with the statistical response of Mr. Labouchere, in the Commons, last week, that, "during the last month, from 19,000 to 22,000 labourers had been employed at an expense, for work, of 27,877*l.*, while the expenses of the staff amounted to only 2,110*l.*" The state of matters in the county of Sligo, however, may not be fairly represented on either side in these statements; but there is in all probability more truth in the declaration of the *Sligo Champion* of the poor, that "ten years of continued prosperity will not revive the manly spirit of independence which formerly existed," and that, in truth, the spirit of paupery is becoming wide spread and national. In many instances, too, wages of 8d. a day are said to be so long withheld, that the labourers sink exhausted by the way-side, and die Government creditors, a state of things certainly very disgraceful, and inconsistent with the beneficent intentions at least of the Government.

Buddhist Architecture.—At a recent meeting of the Asiatic Society, part of a letter was read from Captain Kittoe, who had been making some recent antiquarian researches about Gyah, anciently one of the seats of Buddhism. Captain Kittoe states that he was unsuccessful in his search after remains of Buddhist architecture—having met with but few fragments; but he found a number of small sculptured stones, which he thought were miniature *Chaityas*, or shrines. The base is a cube, the upper plane surmounted by a hemisphere, from the apex of which rises an obelisk. In each of the four vertical faces is a compartment containing a figure of Buddha. Captain Kittoe states that they resemble closely the pagoda at Rangoon, where five hairs of Buddha are kept as relics. Many of them are of elaborate workmanship. Captain Kittoe believes the present temple at Gyah to be less than 600 years old, and to have been built for the joint worship of Siva and Buddha. He thinks he shall be able to trace the amalgamation of the sects by their sculpture; and he is preparing to make drawings of the most interesting of these relics. He states that he has discovered another of Asoka's pillars at Bukrowe, the site of an ancient city of the Buddhists on the banks of the Lilajun.

Vested Rights *v.* Public Health.—A short time since a lecture was delivered in Bedford by Mr. J. Wyatt, on the injurious effects of intra-mural burials. On the subject of interference with vested rights and interests, he said:—"If I understand this part of the question correctly, it is, that there must be no interference with those rights, without an equivalent being provided. It appears to me that there need be no great disturbance of the present vested interests of the clergy, nothing more than a transfer of the means from which those interests are derived, from one spot to another. The same officials, the same fees might be continued, and I cannot suppose that any objection can really be made to the immediate removal and alteration of a system which cannot be continued much longer. If the system is to be entirely dealt with as a matter of vested interests, then I think as much can be said in favour of its abolition as for its continuance in its present state, for I think the owners of property surrounding the grave yards could bring in a heavy account of depreciation of its value, owing to the nuisance created by the miasmata. We find that vested interests have but a feeble claim, and a feebler compensation, when a nuisance created by a factory or unwholesome business is put down in a town. But there is even a heavier account than that to be brought into consideration—the vested rights of the people, who demand that their health shall not be interfered with. In my opinion, this is the paramount claim of all, and ought first to be satisfied, and legislated for; all others are secondary in importance. I, for one, dare not undertake the responsibility of saying, that there are any considerations in the world that should be placed in the scale with it."

Ipswich Antiquities.—We stated, some time since, that although a number of the Ipswich municipal authorities are themselves archæologists, they nevertheless intended to remove another relic of the olden time from Ipswich, namely, the refectory of a monastry of the Black Friars of the Dominican order, (according to Sir Francis Palgrave, the only one in this country), used latterly, though not now, as a grammar school-room. The materials have been sold to Mr. J. A. Pettitt, builder, for removal, not from any urgent necessity, but merely that the ground may be let for building purposes. Mr. Pettitt himself, however, has the good taste and feeling, which his archæological fellow-townsmen of the corporation have not, to be anxious to restore the building, if a lease of the ground can be effected. Mr. J. M. Clark, architect, has prepared a plan of restoration, at small cost, which the mayor and others of the corporation have themselves approved of.

The Yankee Vote Recorder.—An ingenious machine is said to have been lately invented by a convict in one of the state prisons,—as a peace offering to the Government, no doubt,—for the purpose of recording the votes, or yeas and nays, in the legislative assemblies. It consists of a register to stand before the clerk, with wires and knobs to radiate forth to the seats of the members, and by pulling which the vote is registered, while the aggregate vote displays itself at once before the eyes of the clerk in large figures, a record being also at the same time marked to shew how each member votes. If there be any truth in this detail, the invention must certainly be a very ingenious one, although we confess it savours a good deal more of Punch's ingenuity, or that of Yankee *invention* itself, than of matter of fact and practical reality.

The Speedy Lewis.—Sir: In looking over your interesting journal of last week, I find an account of a lewis described by Mr. Russell. I beg to say I made lewises of the same kind in the latter part of the year 1845, and tried them with some of the blocks of stone used at the British Museum, weighing about ten tons, but as the experiment was not to my satisfaction, I abandoned the plan, as I considered there was a risk. After lifting the stone fifteen feet, we surged it three times; upon the last occasion the block slipped from the lewis, which I considered a failure.—J. James. Lambeth.

Art-Union of London.—The lists will close on the last day of the present month. We are glad to learn that Mr. Doo has, at length, completed his plate of "The Convalescent."

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